



COPIAGUE. Connections

Summer 2015

COPIAGUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

Every Ending Is a NEW BEGINNING

The Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School Class of 2015 joyously gathered for the school's 56th commencement ceremony on June 25. With the class theme "Every Ending Is a New Beginning," members of the Board of Education, family, friends, administrators and teachers were witness to more than 300 students being conferred at the end of their high school careers and awaiting the possibilities to come.

Prior to the conferral of diplomas, the soon-to-be graduates listened to a variety of inspirational and encouraging messages imparted by Board of Education President Brian J. Sales, select members of the Class of 2015, Associate Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Bannon and Principal Jeanette Altruda. In her remarks, Mrs. Altruda spoke of the bright new beginning that awaits each graduate.

"As you move forward in your life, remember to dream big and believe that you are capable of greatness," she said. "Embrace the senior class theme 'Every Ending Is a New Beginning' and celebrate the circle of life. For each stage of your life that comes to an end, the future shines with great possibilities of a new beginning."

Following the theme of future life endeavors, Dr. Bannon encouraged the students to "dream big and work hard in fulfilling your dreams. Today is proof that if you focus on your dreams and put effort and hard work into those dreams, you will achieve them."

Valedictorian Natalie Korba offered words of reflection as she made reference to concepts in math, history, biology and English literature. She went on to share her thoughts on how Copiague has prepared the graduates for the next chapter of their lives. "The intellectual and social knowledge that we have

accumulated from growing up in a place as diverse and welcoming as Copiague has already given us a step up in life," she said. "Today may be the end of our journey together, but it's the beginning of our legacy. We are the Class of 2015 and we will make history."

Salutatorian Melanie Barreiro used the metaphor of a gymnastic springboard to advise her fellow classmates. "The point of a springboard is to give you a well-needed boost," she said.

"Copiague has tried its hardest to provide that for every single one of us."

After receiving their diplomas, the graduates moved their tassels from right to left and celebrated by tossing their caps into the air. Following the recessional march, they reunited with their loved ones as official alumni of the Copiague School District.

For photos from the ceremony, please visit the District's website at www.copiague.k12.ny.us.

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Copiague School District
Copiague, N.Y. 11726

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Copiague School District

Congratulations, Class of 2015!



Gabriela Rivera, Tenth
Stony Brook University



Christopher Dundon, Ninth
Stony Brook University



Michael Hararah, Eighth
New York University



Natalie Korba
Valedictorian
Stony Brook University



Melanie Barreiro
Salutatorian
Emerson College



William Hernandez, Third
Cornell University



Nicolette Vasseur, Fourth
Boston College



Thomas Clark, Fifth
Northeastern University



Ivette Fuentes, Seventh
Binghamton University @ SUNY



Kristen Stedman, Sixth
Arcadia University



By the Numbers

Number of Graduates = 348
 Number of Students Graduating with an Advanced Regents w/ Honors Diploma = 17
 Number of Students Graduating with an Advanced Regents Diploma = 97
 Number of Students Graduating with a Regents Diploma = 203
 Number of Students Attending Four-Year Colleges = 73
 Number of Students Attending Two-Year Colleges = 119
 Number of Students Entering the Military = 13
 Community Scholarships Awarded at Senior Awards = \$63,850

On the Road to COLLEGE AND CAREERS

After years of hard work, members of the Class of 2015 were accepted to more than 100 colleges and universities across the country. Below is where you may find the newest Copiague alumni beginning in August.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Adelphi University | Marywood University |
| The American Academy of Dramatic Arts | Mercy College |
| American Musical & Dramatic Academy | Miami University |
| Andrews University | Millersville University |
| Arcadia University | Mohawk Valley Community College |
| Aviation Training Institute | Molloy College |
| Baruch College - CUNY | Monmouth University |
| Barry University | Mount St. Mary's University |
| Bentley University | Nassau Community College |
| Berkeley College | Nazareth College |
| Binghamton University - SUNY | New England College |
| Boston College | New York Institute of Technology |
| Bryant University | New York University |
| Cabrini College | Niagara University |
| Caldwell University | Norfolk State University |
| Canisius College | Oakwood University |
| Castleton State College | Pace University |
| Cazenovia College | Passaic County Community College |
| Clarkson University | Penn State University |
| College of Mount Saint Vincent | Philadelphia University |
| College of Saint Elizabeth | Queens College |
| College of Saint Rose | Quinnipiac University |
| Cornell University | Rochester Institute of Technology |
| DeSales University | Saint Leo University |
| Delaware State University | Saint Peter's University |
| Dowling College | Salem Academy and College |
| Emerson College | San Francisco Art Institute |
| Emory & Henry College | Schenectady Community College |
| Fairleigh Dickinson University | Shaw University |
| Farmingdale State College | Southern Connecticut State Univ. |
| Fashion Institute of Technology | St. Francis College |
| Five Towns College | St. John's University |
| Florida Atlantic University | St. Joseph's College |
| Fordham University | Suffolk Community College |
| Franklin Pierce University | SUNY Buffalo State |
| Full Sail University | SUNY Cortland |
| George Mason University | SUNY Fredonia |
| George Washington University | SUNY Geneseo |
| Hamilton College | SUNY New Paltz |
| Hampton University | SUNY Oneonta |
| Hartwick College | SUNY Oswego |
| Hawai'i Pacific University | SUNY Potsdam |
| Hillsborough Community College | SUNY Purchase |
| Hofstra University | Stony Brook University |
| Iona College | Syracuse University |
| Island Drafting & Technical Institute | Temple University |
| John Jay College of Criminal Justice | University at Albany |
| Johnson & Wales University | University of Bridgeport |
| Keene State College | University of Delaware |
| King's College | University of New Haven |
| La Salle University | University of Tampa |
| Lasell College | Utica College |
| Long Island University, Brooklyn | Virginia State University |
| Long Island University, Post | Wells College |
| Lyndon State College | Wesley College |
| Marymount Manhattan College | York College of Pennsylvania |



WRITING THE *Next Chapter*

In the gymnasium that will soon become very familiar to them, eighth-grade students from Copiague Middle School received their certificates of completion during a moving up ceremony at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School on June 24. Surrounded by family, friends and fellow classmates, the students heard encouraging remarks from administrators and peers, in addition to receiving their certificates.

"The high school teachers are going to take to you to the next level," said Associate Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Bannon. "If you continue to put in the effort and hard work you showed in the middle school, you will be ready to tackle high school work." Dr. Bannon also challenged the students to branch out and be active in the high school's clubs and athletic program.

Valedictorian Aaron Eng and salutatorian Abigail Romero also took the podium to reminisce about their middle school experiences and express their anticipation for the many opportunities that await the incoming freshmen.

Prior to the presentation of diplomas, Principal Andrew Lagnando delivered sage advice and farewell remarks to the eighth-grade class. "Stay motivated, focused and goal-oriented," he said. "Go that extra mile, because what you put into it will determine what you get out of it. These next few years will lay the groundwork for your futures, so remember to always make positive decisions and work hard."

The sixth- and seventh-grade band performed "Westwind" as the students took their first steps as graduates.



Making Milestone Memories

Fifth-grade students across the Copiague School District had many reasons to celebrate this June as they prepared to embark on the next stage of their academic careers. To commemorate their milestone achievement, Deauville Gardens East, Deauville Gardens West, Great Neck Road and Susan E. Wiley hosted Class Day moving up ceremonies.

Students were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements at the four ceremonies, which were attended by parents, faculty members, administrators and invited guests. Awards for academic excellence in core subject areas, as well as the Presidential Education Award, were conferred upon the fifth-graders. Students also demonstrated their musical talents and entertained the audience by performing musical selections between award presentations.

At each elementary school, the students heard words of encouragement from their respective principals as well as Superintendent of Schools Charles A. Leunig. "We are very proud of your accomplishments," said Mr. Leunig. "At the middle school, you are going to have many more opportunities to get involved with clubs and athletics. Get involved in as many as you can, but make sure academics always come first."

Following Mr. Leunig's theme of taking advantage of opportunities afforded to them, Associate Superintendent Dr. Kathleen

Bannon addressed the students and guests at the Deauville Gardens West and Great Neck Road ceremonies. "Everyone sitting in this room can be whatever they choose to be," said Dr. Bannon. "However, you can't do it by sitting back and letting life pass you by. This is the first step, and you are certainly ready for the next step to middle school."

Following the presentation of diplomas, the newest class of elementary school graduates gathered with parents, family members and friends to rejoice in completing this chapter of their educational careers.

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